

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1  
1 1. A method for previewing the result of a function's  
2 application to an object using a processing system  
3 comprising a pointing device and a display displaying a  
4 movable pointer controlled by the pointing device, the  
5 method comprising the steps of:  
6 storing the object and function in the system;  
7 displaying an icon representing the function on the  
8 display;  
9 outputting a preview generated by applying the function  
10 to the object when the pointer is moved onto the icon; and  
11 replacing the object with the result of the function's  
12 application to the object.

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1 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the object  
2 is a multimedia object.

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2 3. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the object  
is an image or a layer.

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2 4. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the object  
is a video.

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2 5. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the object  
is a sound.

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2 6. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the  
function applies an effect to the object.

1           7. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the  
2 function applies an image effect to the object.

1           8. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the  
2 function applies a video effect to the object.

1           9. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the  
2 function applies a sound effect to the object.

1           10. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the  
2 preview is output when the pointer is moved onto the icon  
3 for a period of time.

1           11. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the  
2 object is replaced with the application result of the  
3 function to the object when an event is triggered.

1           12. The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the  
2 pointing device is a mouse.

1           13. The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the  
2 event is clicking the icon.

1           14. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the  
2 preview is output by the display.

1           15. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the  
2 processing system further comprises a speaker by which the  
3 preview is output.

1           16. The method as claimed in claim 1 further  
2 comprising the step of:  
3           terminating outputting the preview when the pointer is  
4 moved out of the icon.

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1           17. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the  
2 application result replacing the object is the preview.

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